

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-19**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX SUPPORTING  
SENATE BILL 810 (LENO) - THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT**

- WHEREAS**, there is a long-term and growing health care crisis in the United States, and in California in particular, healthcare costs are rising 3-5 times faster than the economy; and,
- WHEREAS**, five million Californians have no insurance at any time during the year. An additional two million have none for part of the year. So, in a one-year period, seven million people have no insurance at some point; and
- WHEREAS**, at least 18,000 U.S. residents die each year because they don't have health insurance. Lack of health care is the 7th leading cause of death in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS**, the U.S. spends up to two times as much per capita for health care as other developed countries. All these other countries have universal health care; and,
- WHEREAS**, the United States is now the only developed country that has not designed a system to provide all residents with access to consistent, quality health care regardless of personal health status or ability to pay; and
- WHEREAS**, the new federal law has a provision allowing states to put forth their own plan on the condition it provide similar or better care at costs at least as affordable as the federal plan; and,
- WHEREAS**, California State Sen. Mark Leno has introduced into the state legislature Senate Bill (SB) 810, The California Universal Health Care Act; and
- WHEREAS**, because SB 810 will dramatically reduce premiums for businesses and families, cover all medically necessary health care, eliminate the risk of medical bankruptcy, and is proven to contain health care spending over the long term, it will provide a reliable, fiscally sound insurance plan that guarantees access to affordable, comprehensive, quality health care for all residents of the state; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed system makes it possible to extend and expand coverage without increasing the total amount spent on health care by: 1) recapturing money now spent on unnecessary administrative costs associated with private insurance (eligibility screening, claims disputes, billing, collection, marketing, profits, high executive compensation); and 2) instituting new cost-saving measures, including negotiation of rates for goods and services and bulk purchase of pharmaceuticals; and
- WHEREAS**, governance of the system would be based on principles of transparency, accountability, and reliance on scientific evidence-based health guidelines, and
- WHEREAS**, by making health care less expensive for public employers such as the Town of Fairfax and other governmental agencies, the proposed system saves taxpayers money; and

**WHEREAS**, removing health care as a job-related benefit will give employers and workers greater personal and professional freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, by making care affordable, giving individuals choice of providers, and putting decision-making for medical care in the hands of doctors and patients, the system reflects the American values of independence and personal responsibility; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fairfax Town Council hereby urges the Legislature to pass, and Governor Brown to sign, SB 810, with all deliberate speed.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 6th day of April 2011, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

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MAYOR LARRY BRAGMAN

Attest:

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Judy Anderson, Town Clerk